

ARMOUR W. PATTERSON.

APRIL 20, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

MR. SULLOWAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 15148.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 15148) granting an increase of pension to Armour W. Patterson, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$14 to \$40 per month.

Mr. Patterson, now 67 years of age, served as a sergeant in Company A, First Pennsylvania Cavalry, from April 15, 1861, to February 4, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He was a prisoner of war from June 21, 1864, to November 21, 1864, when paroled.

Medical records of the War Department show that he was treated at various dates during the period of his service for dysentery, chronic diarrhea, remittent fever, and erythema of the face and neck.

He is now pensioned under the general law at \$14 per month on account of general debility, the result of prison life, injury to left shoulder, back, and ribs, and gunshot wound of the left thigh.

His claim on account of rheumatism, alleged to have been contracted while prisoner of war, was rejected by the Pension Bureau in 1893 upon the ground that a ratable degree of disability had not existed since his discharge.

Proof filed in the Pension Bureau shows that upon his parole from a rebel prison, and while at St. John's College Hospital, Maryland, he was a great sufferer from rheumatism, and that he continued to suffer therefrom off and on ever since his discharge, and was under medical treatment for the same, and that during recent years he was often confined to his house by reason of the same for weeks at a time.

The president of the board of examining surgeons at Seward, Nebr.,

which board examined the soldier on July 2, 1902, stated in the certificate of examination as follows:

As applicant's physician, I make this special statement: Applicant is confined to his house or bed nearly every time a storm appears and is confined for from three to twenty-one days with acute attacks of rheumatism and dysentery, accompanied with gastric trouble.

That board of surgeons then rated him \$8 for chronic diarrhea and disease of the digestive organs, \$4 for the gunshot wound of thigh, and \$4 for rheumatism.

An examination of September, 1899, rated him \$15 for general debility, \$4 for the injury to shoulder, \$6 for wound of thigh, \$8 for rheumatism, and that board also stated that they have personal knowledge that he was confined to his bed with chronic diarrhea and rheumatism at least one-fourth of the time, and that his wife was compelled to assist him to arise, clothe himself, etc.

When last examined, on March 4, 1903, the board of surgeons stated as follows:

"Claimant is an old man whose health is rather feeble; is somewhat anæmic in appearance," and that board of surgeons then rated him \$10 for debility, the result of prison life, \$2 for injury to shoulder, and \$2 for the wound of thigh.

It is evident from the testimony on file that the soldier contracted rheumatism while a prisoner of war, and that he suffers from acute attacks of the same at times so seriously as to confine him to his bed and to require assistance.

Your committee is of the opinion that under these circumstances an increase of his pension from \$14 to \$30 per month is fully justified, and report the bill back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "forty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

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